OPENING REMARKS BY MR. L.T. MSONGOLE, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TO PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING A WORKING SESSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PFMRP-PHASE III, UNDER THE NEW STRATEGY, AT UBUNGO PLAZA

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure, that I am here today, to make a few opening remarks, to this important working session, on implementation of PFMRP Phase III, under the new Strategy.

As we all know, the review of PFMRP II Strategy that ended on 30th June, 2008 has been completed. The review of the PFMRP II was prompted by concerns/issues raised from earlier diagnostic reviews and an external evaluation on the Programme Performance. The challenges/limitations
pointed out from those reviews/evaluations included, unsatisfactory performance of PFMRP II, inadequate organisation and management, limited ownership and commitment to the programme by Component Managers. Consequently, the Government appointed a Consultant to carry out a comprehensive review of the PFMRP II and present recommendations for a revised strategy. The Consultant was procured through the normal procuring process, as per Government regulations. He undertook the task from end July up to mid-October, 2007 and submitted the final report to the Government during October, 2007.

Essentially, the review of the PFMRP Strategy was a fact finding exercise, which came up with a list of issues and proposals for improvements on organization of the programme structures and how the programme would be monitored and evaluated.

The review process was fairly participatory and interactive, involving all PFMRP Component Managers and other stakeholders. The review culminated into the launching of a new Strategy for PFMRP Phase III. Both the
new strategy and Implementation Plan and Budget for 2008/09 - 2009/10 have been approved by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC).

PFMRP Phase III has started to introduce new features, compared to the past PFM reforms phases. There is increased scope, coverage, outward looking and more resources will be availed with focussed interventions. The programme is increasingly assuming a national character, than has been viewed before as a MoFEA Programme. Thus, some MDAs have been included in the programme as key actors and the future phases will experience more roll-out of the programme activities to lower levels of Government. Eventually, the PFMRP should be an umbrella programme, that will cut across Government, embracing other public sector reform programmes.

My appointment to MoFEA as Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for PFM issues is a reflection of the importance the Government attaches to this programme. I shall be working with you directly or indirectly and therefore, I will need your cooperation and support in carrying out this
task successfully. In this connection, I wish to ask you, not to hesitate seeing me on PFMRP issues, as and when it is necessary to do so. We should work as a team to carry forward the PFM reform agenda to fruition.

As you all know, the implementation of this programme is mainstreamed into the normal departmental operations of the Government. This means that the responsibility of implementing programme activities and delivery of outputs, rests on the shoulders of departmental heads and the Programme Manager. Coordinated efforts are therefore needed for smooth and effective programme performance. You may thus wish to discuss the programme organizational structure and the responsibilities of key players and the relationships among them, so that after this workshop, all of us will leave with a clear understanding of what is expected of us, in ensuring that the programme is implemented well.

The PFMRP Technical Support or Coordination Unit will provide backup services to respective departments. The unit has been established on an interim arrangement for purposes of capacity building and ensuring that programme
implementation is well coordinated. It is my hope that, with time, we shall develop the necessary requisite capacities in managing the programme without need for external support.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,* as earlier mentioned, we are meeting here to discuss, among other issues, the details of implementing PFMRP plans for 2008/09. This is therefore an important occasion, at which we need to share a common understanding of the programme requirements, the targets and time-lines and formats for performance reporting. That achieved, should facilitate realization of the set programme objectives as per work plans. It is important, therefore, that you should work together as a team of experts, sharing experiences and skills, towards effective and efficient programme implementation. You should not hesitate to learn and seek help from each other, since we are all working for the common objectives of the programme.

It is my hope that you will spend the two days usefully, and manage to come out with a clear understanding of what is ahead of us, in terms of activities, reporting requirements,
funding modalities, coordination arrangements and support services required during implementation.

All Component Managers are required to implement and complete all the priority PFM activities that are funded for 2008/09. It can be done, play your part.

The PFMRP Coordination Unit and the MoFEA Planning Division will work together to facilitate this working session. Give them the necessary cooperation and support in making this session a success.

With these few remarks, May I now declare this working session officially opened.

“Thank you.”

L.T. Msongole

DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS